

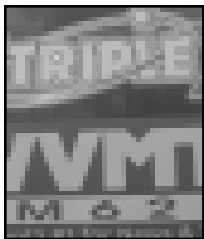
# One huge issue: where to park

By April Farrington

The parking lot at Colchester High School seems to be a problem for some people. It is an issue for more than one reason, not enough parking spots, and the price for a parking spot. Most of the seniors and the teachers took up all of the spots in the parking lot this year. There is no junior parking at all, and even some seniors are on a waiting list. Sound ridiculous? Also people are not too happy about paying \$60 to park somewhere they need to be everyday. There are schools that pay \$10- \$15 to park. Mr. Clark and Mrs. Minor stated a few good reasons on why things are the way they are here at Colchester High School.



Senior driver



95 Triple X

and the only way to get a spot if you're on the list is if someone loses their parking privilege. There are 112 student parking spots and not everyone is going to have one.

"Parking is not a right, it's a privilege" says Mrs. Minor.

With two hundred and some-odd people in the senior class, someone is bound to lose a spot.

"Every parking space in the lot is paid for whether or not someone decides to park there," says St.Germain. "There is only one spot not being used, it is a teachers spot being reserved in case they decide to hire someone."

Seniors are parking at Bayside or 95 Triple X, does that seem right? Mrs. Minor said that when they build the new sports fields, they might have room to extend the parking lot. The administration does not think that will happen for a few years though. Eventually, there should be enough room for at least a whole senior class to park at the school.

Mr. Clark provided information

The classes are a lot larger than they have been in the past and there is not really any fair way to give people parking spots, but obviously seniors come first. Although all of the useable student parking spots are currently full, there is a waiting list.

Ms. St. Germain has said that there are probably ten seniors and a few juniors on this list



Photo by Larisa Jukic

On a typical school day the CHS parking lot is unusually crowded with all spaces taken.

about the price and a little more information on parking. "All of the money that we get from student parking spots goes to maintaining the lot," says Clark.

About six or seven years ago, there was a major resurfacing, and three years ago we had a little touch up. But all of the money we get goes to helping us out in the parking lot. There are schools that do pay \$15 but there are also some schools that pay \$80.

At Burlington High School students pay \$15 to park at the school. The reason it is so cheap there is because they do not have assigned parking spots, they just have parking permits. They get something saying that they can park at the school, but they do not have a specific spot to park in everyday. Essex High School charges \$80 to park at the school, their reasoning is probably the same as ours. Maintaining the parking lot can really cost a lot of money, but \$80 is a little extreme.

Mr. Clark says that the big reason we have assigned parking spots is so that the administration knows where people's cars are. If something happens to someone's car in spot 125, they will know

who to go to. At Burlington, they will not know whose car it is that got hit. A few years ago, a janitor was backing his truck out and he accidentally hit a student's car. With the assigned parking spots and the chart saying who is parked where, Mr. Clark was able to go right to the student who owned that car.

So there is a reason to have assigned parking spots and a reason to pay \$60 for a spot at the school, but could there be a way to make it so at least one class can park at the school? If they did come up with an idea to enlarge the parking lot, it will not be anytime soon.

Good luck to the next few years of seniors. Piece of advice from Mr. Clark? Come on time the day assigned to get your parking spot because if you don't, you will probably be parking at Bayside as a senior.

# Do the evolution

By Aaron Cavazos

While the teaching of evolution and geological theories dating Earth back at least 4 billion years are the standard methods in many of America's schools, an ongoing debate has raged for years in states such as Kansas and Louisiana to allow the adoption of "creation science" and "intelligent design" units in public school science classes. In the eye of public scrutiny and legal proceedings, the justification for said units has almost universally been "academic freedom", that is, allowing students to pursue their own definition of scientific truth based on all available theories and evidence. While this is an admirable intent, the theories of creation science and intelligent design are inescapably religious in nature, and therefore have no place in America's public school science classes.

Intelligent design is the easier of the two theories to dispel as purely religious. The intelligent design theory holds that the earth, universe, and life as we know it were created by an 'intelligent being', because there exists no proven method by which such things could have been created otherwise. Unfortunately, there also exists no proven intelligent being capable of creating such things, either. Faith is admirable and encouraged, but given that science is the method by which humans seek to understand observable phenomena, faith cannot become a substitute for research and investigation, and to teach that in order to understand the world one must hold a certain faithful belief is to disregard the true nature of the subject in question: science.

Creation science, on a purely evidential level, seems more suitable to classroom instruction. Indeed, there is fairly solid evidence presented by creation scientists that imply that Earth may only be a few thousand years old, and that there are no fossil records indicating evolution. Most of this evidence comes from a sediment layer that creation scientists claim

indicates a single catastrophic flood that resulted in the extinction of ancient organisms. This science still, however, must be left out of public schooling—at least as substantial curriculum material—because of our legal obligation to separate church and state. As long as creation science exists to attempt to prove—even by experimentation and research—that the account of events as presented in the Bible is factual, it is thus a support of a particular religious doctrine, and has no place in a public school.

In the end, what the issue comes down to is not the suppression of religious faith by science, nor the need to decry methods other than the norm as merely religious dogma. The simple fact is that creation science and intelligent design are alternative scientific theories to what is most frequently accepted, which are acceptable in a scientific sense—at least partially—but which still are permeated by religious undertones and motivations. Therefore, it is the duty of all public schools to forego these theories as major or central units of study, not because of any scientific shortcoming or religious bias, but simply because at this point, there is not enough solid scientific support for these theories to outweigh their clear religious foundations.

We cannot, as a country wherein religion and the state are legally separate, endorse any one belief system; and to make intelligent design and creation science central units of public school science is to do just that. Acknowledge the other theories, and their discrepancies with the generally accepted truth, but limit it to that. It is not yet creation science's time to dance, and for now, state-funded schools are going to have to keep on doing the Evolution.

## Gas prices drain wallets

By Justin Surprenant

The gas prices are rising again. It seems like this phrase is on the news every other week. Politicians and company CEO's are quick to point the blame, but why are gas prices actually so high right now? All we know is that the prices are not going down any time soon.

Gas prices are getting to the point now where high school students have to work jobs or borrow money from their parents just to afford gas. If a high school student is working for minimum wage, it takes a day's pay just to pay for a week's worth of gas.

Senior Aaron Cavazos says, "I have to work just to pay for gas and that if oil companies are recording record profits gas prices are higher than they need to be."

Nationwide the number of students riding school busses is increasing because fewer students can afford to pay for gas. Although at Colchester High School this year the parking lot is full of only seniors and not everybody has a spot, so gas prices do not seem a major

factor in deciding if students drive to school.

Some students who have to pay for their own gas are put in a tough spot by rising gas prices. They have to choose between working and being able to afford gas and doing things like playing sports and other activities. Gas companies know that people (even students) do not have a choice but pay the rising price for gas.

Exxon Mobil's CEO states in their company's mission statement that supply and demand is a major factor in deciding the price of gas. Exxon Mobil's website also states that they run like a regular business with a goal to increase profits but when is it too much? Oil companies are taking advantage of the situation America is stuck with. Oil company's profits keep growing and growing over the years and the demand for gas continues to rise. The prices rise on holidays, during the summer and any other time when demand is going to be higher. It was reported that in 2006 Exxon Mobil made \$347.3 billion in

revenue and \$39.5 billion in profit.

If the trend continues gas prices are not going to get better until we start to put more effort into developing alternative fuels other than gasoline and diesel. According to the experts Ethanol is still years away from being able to be used as a major fuel source. States are trying to help the issue by creating car pool lanes and building park and rides but couldn't the state be using that money to cut down on the gas taxes in their state? Vermont's tax is exactly 20 cents per gallon. If there was no tax it would make a huge difference.

In the last ten years gas prices have doubled. In October, of 1997, the national average for gas prices was \$1.32 compared to \$2.79 this October. Gas prices will continue to go up because oil companies control the industry right now. Even our countries president and vice president are involved with Texas oil companies. Demand for gas is going to continue to go up and oil companies are going to continue to get rich for the foreseeable future.



Photo by Justin Surprenant

Visiting the pump has become increasingly costly.